

an important opportunity to mark the progress we have made and the steps forward yet to be taken.

Today, more people with disabilities than ever are graduating from school, participating in their communities, and succeeding in the labor market. For the tens of millions living in the United States with a disability, realizing the American dream is a real possibility that often did not exist a generation ago. I am especially heartened by the growing recognition that tapping these individuals' talent, character, and hard work is as important to the Nation's future as it is to theirs.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the sobering reality that faces too many people with disabilities, including our brave servicemembers and veterans returning from war with severe injuries and conditions. While people with disabilities have long experienced far higher unemployment rates, they are also particularly hard hit by the current economic downturn. Physical, financial, and social barriers to employment remain, as well as the discrimination and prejudice that keep some from competing in the American economy on equal footing as everyone else. Moreover, many individuals with disabilities struggle to afford good, continuous health coverage, a hardship given their intensive health care needs.

Clearly, we have much work ahead of us in order to fulfill the promise of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I am pleased that Congress is continuing to work toward this priority, most recently with the enactment of the ADA Amendments Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. On behalf of all Nevadans, I look forward to building on these successes in the 111th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. HOUBOLT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on July 20, 2009, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first time man set foot on the Moon. On that day 40 years ago, an estimated 500 million people around the world watched as the crew of Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, made history. It was a remarkable accomplishment, the magnitude of which has not diminished over the years.

As part of the anniversary festivities, Congress awarded John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, and the crew of Apollo 11 the Congressional Gold Medal. I cosponsored the legislation and am pleased that they were recognized with it.

Most recently I had the chance to meet two Illinois astronauts, Scott Altman and John Grunsfeld, whom earlier this year successfully completed the last service mission of the Hubble Telescope. We will be able to explore even deeper into the mysteries of our universe for many years to come because of their incredible work.

Today, I wish to recognize Dr. John C. Houbolt, a scientist born and raised

in Joliet, IL, who has received far less acclaim, but who deserves our Nation's gratitude for making the Moon landing possible.

One of the most important and hotly debated technical decisions during the Apollo Program was how to land on the Moon and return safely to Earth. Amid many ideas and obstacles, Dr. Houbolt recognized that the most efficient way to execute the Moon landing was with a lunar-orbit rendezvous plan.

His concept involved a mother craft that would orbit the Moon while a lighter craft descended from it to the surface of the Moon carrying some of the astronauts. Eventually, the smaller aircraft would lift off and rendezvous with the mother ship.

For many years NASA's leadership favored other concepts to reach the lunar surface. But, Dr. Houbolt's determination, persistence, and perseverance moved this innovative concept forward. As former NASA Deputy Director George Low noted, without Dr. Houbolt's efforts, NASA "might not have chosen the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous Mode" and "had the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous Mode not been chosen, Apollo would not have succeeded."

On the 40th anniversary of the lunar landing, as we celebrated with the crew of Apollo 11 in Washington, DC, a new exhibit aptly named "The Soaring Achievements of John C. Houbolt" opened at the Joliet Area Historical Museum. I encourage my fellow Illinoisans, especially students, to visit this exhibit.

Dr. Houbolt's inspiring story, like the stories of Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Buzz Aldrin, and John Glenn, is a testament to what we can achieve with persistence and the passion to reach for new heights.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JAMES D. RANGE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, earlier this year, we lost a great Tennessean and champion of the great American outdoors. James D. Range was a lifelong outdoorsman who loved America's wild spaces. He grew up in Johnson City, TN, hunting and fishing in the backwoods of the Appalachian Mountains. It was in his those early years that Jim—who was also an Eagle Scout—became passionate about preserving our outdoors for future generations.

He became a passionate advocate for the country's fish and wildlife and their habitat and a true champion of natural resource conservation.

Jim was a trusted advisor and counsel to Senate majority leader Howard Baker and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where he served with integrity and distinction. As a Senate staffer, Jim was instrumental in the crafting and passage of a string of landmark laws, including the Clean Water Act.

After Jim left the Senate, he continued to pursue his love for the outdoors by cofounding and serving as chairman of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, an organization that is dedicated to the stewardship of America's natural landscape, helping to expand fish and wildlife habitat and increasing public access to quality hunting and fishing.

Jim didn't stop there. He furthered his commitment to the cause of conservation through service on the boards of directors for Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Wetlands America Trust, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the American Sportfishing Association, the American Bird Conservancy, the Pacific Forest Trust, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council, and the Valles Caldera Trust.

Jim was so instrumental in the conservation movement in this country that he was awarded the U.S. Department of the Interior's Great Blue Heron Award, was named Conservationist of the Year in 2003 by Outdoor Life magazine and received the Norville Prosser Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Sportfishing Association.

Both our natural and political environments are better because of Jim Range. Tennesseans, and all Americans, owe Jim a great debt of gratitude. His leadership serves as a great example to all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO CECIL EYESTONE

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I recognize a great Kansan for his long service to the youth of the State of Kansas.

"Teaching by example," was Cecil Eyestone's philosophy in his 31-year Kansas 4-H career. He served 12 years as a Montgomery County club agent and 19 years as a State 4-H specialist. He was a pioneer for leadership opportunities for teens. Cecil initiated the first junior leaders club for the teens in Montgomery County. His determined attitude for developing teen leaders through hands-on experiences resulted in 80 percent of Kansas counties adopting the concept. A State Junior Leadership Camp was held in 1959 at Rock Springs 4-H Center that continued for 15 years with annual participation of 200-300 youth. Cecil and his brother Merle have sponsored a 4-H leadership scholarship for 24 years.

Cecil was Collegiate 4-H Club adviser for 16 years, reaching over 4,000 students. He organized eight collegiate clubs at other Kansas universities and colleges. Cecil guided the animal science 4-H program and helped develop horse, dog and rabbit projects. He created the Horse Panorama to teach horse care and judging.

Retired in 1977, Cecil volunteers for the Governor's Mental Health Advisory, National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Sertoma, Riley County Flint Hills AMI, Methodist's Men and First United Methodist Church, Flint Hills Veterans Coalition and KSU WWII Veterans Memorial. He stays busy with his family, but finds time to judge 4 to 10 county fairs annually.

Last year, Cecil was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. This Sunday, October 4, 2009, Cecil will be honored at a special reunion of the 4-Hers he mentored during his time as the Montgomery County 4-H agent. During this reunion, the first two recipients of a scholarship named in Cecil's honor will be announced. These scholarships were made possible by donations from the 1946-1957 Montgomery County 4-H alumni.

As a former 4-H member myself during Cecil's tenure as the State 4-H specialist, it is an honor for me to speak on behalf of the thousands of Kansas 4-Hers who were touched by Cecil's commitment to the Kansas 4-H program. It is a privilege for me to honor this fine Kansan for his leadership and service and to join in congratulating him on his induction into the National 4-H Hall of Fame.●

REMEMBERING HARVEY STOWER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I pay tribute to a dear friend and a great Wisconsinite who passed away earlier this week. Harvey Stower was an extraordinary man; he was a deeply principled legislator, a dedicated mayor, and a beloved friend to those of us lucky enough to know him.

I was honored to serve with Harvey in the Wisconsin Legislature, where he worked tirelessly for the progressive values he held dear. His commitment to representing family farmers and protecting the environment were an inspiration to countless Wisconsinites.

He then served as the mayor of Amery, where he and his wife Marilyn, who sadly passed away in 2008, were pillars of the community. Harvey was such a wonderful mayor because he understood the strength of our small towns, and cherished the sense of community they create.

Harvey was also an ordained United Methodist minister, and an active member of his community in countless ways, both through his work as mayor and through many community organizations.

He also remained active on issues on a statewide level, through his service on the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board and the boards of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, the Western Wisconsin Intergovernmental Collaborative, Wisconsin Church and Society—the United Methodist Church, and Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association.

Harvey's passing is an immeasurable loss for his family, for the people of

Amery, and for our State. He was truly one of the nicest people I have come across in many years in public life. I respected Harvey so much, and I will always think of him as someone who represented the very best of Wisconsin. I join people across our State in remembering him today and honoring the many contributions he made to his State and his community.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY PAPPEY

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, all of us in public life have been privileged to have very special people come into our public lives who dedicate their time, energy, and passion to helping us serve, but even among these special people, there are those who stand out. I am speaking today of just such a person—my friend, Mary Pappey. And I am speaking today because it is a special day for this special person—it is her 85th birthday.

Mary has served on my staff in Boston since 1988, longer than just about anybody who has ever worked with me. It is often said that when God closes one door, He opens another. And that is how Mary came to us. She was a homemaker whose happy life was upended when her husband Nicholas passed away in 1988. To help fill the void, she asked if she could volunteer in our office a couple of days a week. And she has been there ever since.

It is hard to remember a time that Mary hasn't been there in my Boston office, whether answering phones, handling mail, or just making sure everyone is OK doing whatever had to be done. She is an incredible mother to her children; in so many ways she has also been a mother to our Boston office family. And always, she has been a calming presence in what can be a hectic environment. It helps, too, that she bakes a mean baklava that can bring some needed sweetness to the most frenetic of work days.

But that isn't all. Far from it. Mary has had a very special job in my Boston office. Since joining my staff, she has advanced all the applications we have received from students seeking appointments to the military service academies. She has made sure the applications are complete, all deadlines are met and, when necessary, held the hands of anxious applicants and even more anxious parents of applicants. For 21 years, Mary has handled this job with special skills and sensitivities. And, in fact, she has shepherded through an entire generation of service academy appointees from Massachusetts.

Mary's grandchildren, the joys of her life, call her "Yaya," which is Greek for grandmother. I think we could all call her that, because she has been a kind of grandmother to all of us—someone who offers reassurance when it is needed, someone who puts her heart and soul into everything she does, someone to watch over all of us, with kindness and affection. I can't re-

call a time I didn't get a huge hug from Mary whenever I came by the office.

I should also mention that Mary has a special way with words, or rather, with one word in particular the word "dear." At some point, she has referred to everyone in the office as "dear," especially when they are having a rough day. That is not surprising. But what is surprising is how, when she is helping with the phones, Mary often addresses the caller as "dear." Again, that is not surprising, except when you consider that sometimes it is an anonymous caller, someone so frustrated by what they just saw on television or by the run around they are getting from Federal bureaucracies that can at times seem unreasonably cold, that they don't want to identify themselves. But it is hard for them to stay mad with Mary calling them "dear." She brings out the very best in all of us.

So, I want to thank "dear" Mary for her devotion to the people of Massachusetts, for all her years of service on my staff and for being such a wonderful, generous friend. And I especially want to wish "dear" Mary all of my best and hope that this will be a very happy birthday.●

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a poem written by Mr. Albert Carey Caswell. Mr. Caswell is a valued tour guide of the U.S. Capitol whose great enthusiasm and love of our country has inspired him to compose over 500 poems. Mr. Caswell wrote this poem in tribute to the remarkable life and work of our beloved late colleague Senator Ted Kennedy.

The information follows.

UPON THIS FLOOR

Upon this floor . . .
From our forefathers so bore . . .
A dream, for all our futures to ensure . . .
Now in history, the world's greatest of all
democracies . . .
Upon this floor . . .
For as the years have played out . . .
The United States Senate, would so tout!
Some of the greatest, from Clay, Calhoun to
Webster no doubt . . .
Men of conscience and of faith, who would so
debate . . .
Who but in their hands, were but put our na-
tion's future fate.
Upon this floor!
Who all but for the greater good, did but all
they could . . .
Giants one and all, who but heard our na-
tion's call . . .
Her call to public service, upon this
floor . . .
And now as the years have gone by . . .
A new great, a new giant has so arrived . . .
A name we now so utter with tear in eye . . .
Edward M. Kennedy, who upon this floor
spoke so eloquently!
Whose word, was one to be cherished and re-
spected!
The most effective Senator, as John McCain
expressed this!
For legislation can be a blood sport . . .
For only those of great heart and courage,
will like lions roar!
And yet, in all that heat . . . it takes a lead-
er who can make minds meet!
As was this man, so charming and sweet!
And leave their most hallowed marks upon
this floor . . .